

Sixty New Commoner Readers from One Community

H. F. Schmidt, Chairman Democratic County Central Committee, Dodge City, Kan.—Enclosed find check for \$15.00 for which send The Commoner to the enclosed 60 names of subscribers. This list was given me by Mr. H. W. Harshberger of this city and is the result of an afternoon's work; he started out to get one hundred, but was forced to quit, but he says he will attend to the rest later. He is a Virginia democrat, born in the same county and in the same year as Governor Wilson. It looks now as if Wilson and Marshall will carry Kansas, also as if we would elect the second democratic governor old Kansas has ever had.

How to Beat Murphy

Governor Wilson has very properly announced that he can not participate in state contests. Some New York democrats desired to enlist the governor's help in the fight against Charles F. Murphy—a fight New York democrats are now waging. A candidate for office must often take things as he finds them so far as party machinery is concerned. He can not always do what he would like to do in reforming his party and in forcing undesirables to the rear. But Governor Wilson's help is not needed in this fight. There are enough good democrats in New York to drive Murphy to the rear and to defeat him in his efforts to control New York politics if these democrats will go to the front in defense of their party and their country. The New York World is making a gallant fight against Murphy and Murphyism and on this line it gives the democrats of the entire state a broad hint when in an editorial entitled, "How to Beat Murphy," it says:

"The World gives its unqualified indorsement to Governor Wilson's policy of non-intervention in the contest against Charles F. Murphy. The duty of ridding the democratic party of the blight of Murphyism does not rest upon the democratic candidate for president. It rests upon the 700,000 democratic voters of New York. We do not believe in the superman theory of government. We do not believe that a resident of New Jersey, however eminent, should be expected to do the work of the democrats of New York. If they can not save themselves from stupid and corrupt boss rule, they do not deserve salvation. The way to beat Murphy is not to appeal to Woodrow Wilson but to appeal to the enrolled democrats who will vote in the primaries next fall. Murphy can not control the democratic state convention unless he has a majority of the delegates. He can not have a majority of the delegates unless his delegates are chosen at the primaries. If the democrats of Brooklyn refuse their allegiance to the Tammany boss and his local underlings, if the democrats up the state refuse to send Murphy men to the convention, the control of the party can be wrested from Murphy's hands. Now is the time for the democratic newspapers of this state to prove their courage and independence and capacity for public service. The leadership in this contest belongs to them and the responsibility rests upon them. Let them present the issue clearly and plainly and forcefully to their readers, and Murphy can be beaten. The great majority of New York democrats do not want Charles F. Murphy to name their candidate for governor. They do not want Charles F. Murphy to appoint judges of the court of appeals. They do not want the Murphy system of government by contracts extended throughout the state. They do not want their party machinery in the hands of the boss who disgraced New York at Baltimore. But they will never make the fight against him unless they are stirred into action. If the clean-cut issue of Murphyism can be effectively presented to the democratic voters at the democratic primaries, the democratic party will no longer be at the mercy of the stupid boss of Tammany. Governor Wilson has enough to do without trying to clean up the democratic party in New York. Let 700,000 democratic voters do this for themselves, for the state and for their country."

DIRECTORS WHO DO NOT DIRECT

The Wall Street Journal tells of a verdict rendered recently in London which bears strongly upon the interesting American question affecting directors who do not direct: "On the strength of a pamphlet and circular issued by the authority of the directors of the Law, Car & General Insurance Corporation, Frank Dod-

son purchased shares in that company and sued the directors for breach of faith. It appeared that neither the 10 per cent dividend nor the 2 1/2 per cent bonus declared simultaneously with the issue of the circular had been earned, and that the directors had been deceived by one or more of the executive officers. These directors were Sir Henry Cotton, a distinguished English public servant, and four others of unquestioned probity and standing. A criminal charge was made but was withdrawn when these gentlemen were able to prove that they themselves were buying the shares at a premium subsequent to the declaration of the dividend. The question of good faith, therefore, did not enter into the civil trial, which turned entirely on the responsibility of the directors. They were defended by some of the ablest men at the English bar, and the summing up of the judge, although entirely impartial, laid stress upon their unblemished standing in the community. The jury after a deliberation of forty-five minutes returned a verdict for the plaintiff, holding the directors liable for his loss. The jury accepted the direct instruction of the judge that the directors were appointed for the purpose of

supervising the action of the executive officers, and found that they could have satisfied themselves as to whether the dividend and bonus had been earned or not; and as to the truth of the glowing statements about the company's alleged increase of business made in the pamphlet and prospectus, upon the authority of which the plaintiff bought his shares."

The Wall Street Journal hits the nail squarely on the head when it says: "What would not this country give for only a few verdicts like that? The more respectable a director is, the more is he bound, for the sake of his honor and credit, to see that he, a trustee of the stockholders, is not deceived. Our laws give him ample opportunity to do so. Do they equally protect stockholders when he accepts the position as a dummy, or as a tribute to his commercial standing, accepting also the director's fees and perquisites—and yet fails to direct?"

A federal judge in Georgia seeks to punish for contempt the man who asks for the impeachment of the judge. Yet we are expected to go right ahead entertaining the profoundest respect for such judicial procedure.

The "Torchlight Procession" is Doomed

As a means of influencing thinking men in this day and age of progress, the "torchlight procession," like other similar agencies, is passing into history.

The voters of today are reading and thinking for themselves. They demand arguments and reasons rather than red lights and loud noises. In the future, the party that makes its appeal to the intellects of men is the party that will win political conflicts and promote progressive reforms.

The democratic party today occupies an impregnable position with the best voters of all parties. Its platform is strong; its candidates are strong; but its message MUST be carried to the voters themselves. The voters MUST BE SHOWN WHY the democratic party deserves success. Good campaign literature must be placed in their hands. This is a work every earnest member of the democratic party CAN and SHOULD do in his precinct, regardless of whether there is a political club or not. Where political clubs are already organized, this work will make them doubly effective.

Numerous instances can be cited where a few earnest men have set out to supply the new and doubtful voters of their precinct with good campaign literature. As a means of doing this, they have placed The Commoner in their hands for the fall campaign. In actual vote-getting results, the work of these few men has been more effective than any other method. With The Commoner going into the homes of 10, 25 and 50 doubtful voters every week the results have been surprising.

The reason is simple—personal, individual work counts. An instance of what one worker can do was told in last week's Commoner. This worker started out to get up a Commoner club in his precinct. He secured the names of 111 voters, 84 never having read The Commoner, and SIXTY-FOUR of the number were REPUBLICANS formerly. These republicans, on account of their previous affiliations, would perhaps not care to join a political club. At the same time, they have shown that they are willing to read and think on the vital issues of the day, and when the time comes to vote they can be depended upon to cast an intelligent ballot.

Here is a class of voters that can not be easily reached by political clubs. They CAN BE REACHED by the earnest party workers—their next door neighbors—by organizing a Commoner club. Hundreds of Commoner workers have started out on this plan and are placing The Commoner in the hands of doubtful voters. This kind of work will "make the biggest light" when the ballots are counted in November.

Will you be one of the earnest workers to take up the work in your precinct? The time is short; the opportunity is great. The Commoner campaign rate is low—25 cents for single subscriptions from now until the close of the campaign. A good Commoner club will be the most effective way of increasing the party strength in your precinct. Start the work today. Use the attached blank for clubs of four, or attach to blank sheet for larger club.

FOUR FOR \$1.00 CLUB

THE COMMONER, Lincoln, Neb.:

Gentlemen—Enclosed find \$1.00 for which please send The Commoner to the following four new subscribers under your special campaign offer—FOUR FOR \$1.00—from now until the close of the presidential campaign.

Name P. O.

Name P. O.

Name P. O.

Name P. O.